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LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 17 January 1991 by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on actions in the Gulf taken in order to enforce the United Nations Security Council resolutions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yoshio HATANO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement by the Prime Minister of Japan issued
on 17 January 1991

I. Today a number of States Members of the United Nations, including the United States and European and Arab countries, resorted to the use of force in order to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions which demand the total withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

Japan has insisted from the beginning that the Government of Iraq comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions without delay, and has made every possible effort until the very last moment to resolve the crisis peacefully. The Government of Iraq, however, has stubbornly ignored the Security Council resolutions and continued its invasion and annexation of Kuwait beyond the grace period that expired on 15 January. Japan strongly condemns this outrageous behaviour of Iraq, and deeply regrets that the efforts of the international community to find a peaceful solution to the crisis have achieved nothing.

Iraq's blatant invasion and annexation of its neighbour is a challenge to the authority of the United Nations which has a major responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. If condoned, such actions would jeopardize the just and stable international order that is so indispensable for the existence of every country, including Japan. Accordingly, Japan pledges its firm support for the use of force by the countries concerned, carried out in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 678, as the last resort in efforts to terminate the invasion and restore peace.

Japan is determined to extend maximum possible support, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions, to the actions taken by the countries concerned to restore international peace and stability. Furthermore, Japan will offer maximum possible assistance to evacuees and refugees in co-operation with relevant international organizations, and is already taking actions for its implementation.

Japan strongly calls upon the Government of Iraq to respect the united will of the international community and immediately accept all the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. It is our strong hope that hostilities in the Gulf region will promptly cease, and lasting peace and stability will prevail in the Middle East as soon as possible.

The Government of Japan has already taken necessary steps to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals remaining in and around the Gulf region. The Government will continue to make all possible efforts for the protection of those Japanese nationals, with a view to avoiding any unexpected adverse developments in the present situation. All necessary measures are also being taken to prevent hijackings and other emergency situations in Japan and overseas.

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Likewise, the Government intends to work within a co-operative international framework to minimize the adverse impact on the Japanese economy and to ensure stability in the daily life of the people. At the same time, I would like to remind the Japanese people of the heightened need for energy conservation.

Japan has also established a Gulf crisis task force within the Cabinet and headed by myself as Prime Minister, and will respond vigorously to this emergency in a concerted, comprehensive and effective manner.

Confident that these policies are in Japan's own interests and are consistent with the desire for lasting peace through international harmony as expressed in our Constitution, the Government asks for the understanding and co-operation of all of the people.

II. Based on the position that I have just stated, the following concrete measures will be taken:

1. Assistance to the multinational forces.

The Government of Japan intends to extend, as assistance to the multinational forces, an additional contribution to the Gulf Peace Fund.

2. Assistance to evacuees.

(1) Financial and in-kind co-operation

To cope positively with the situation, the Government of Japan will disburse as soon as possible \$US 38 million, which is equivalent to the full amount which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) has requested from the international community to cover start-up costs for the relief of evacuees. Relief materials (including blankets) will also be provided to the countries around Iraq, as the need arises.

(2) Transportation co-operation

From a humanitarian viewpoint, the Government will ask civil airlines to transport evacuees, and under the assumption that conditions will vary from case to case, will consider the use of Self-defense Force transportation aircraft as necessary. I would like to request the understanding of the Japanese people in these actions.
